

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr
December 13, 2001

I am pleased to send greetings and best wishes to those across the globe who are celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

For Muslims, the Eid is a festive occasion, celebrating service rendered to God during the holy month of Ramadan. During this special time, it is also a tradition to help those in need. Performing acts of charity remains a tradition common across many faiths, challenging each of us to make a positive difference in the lives of others through generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Today, due to drought and dictatorship, millions of people in Afghanistan are hungry and face the prospect of a harsh winter. Americans are working with many nations to provide food, medicine, and clothing to the people of Afghanistan. We resolve to work in partnership with other nations to assist with rebuilding their nation.

The teachings of many faiths share much in common. And people of many faiths are united in our commitments to love our families, to protect our children, and to build a more peaceful world. In the coming year, let us resolve to seize opportunities to work together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. Through our combined efforts, we can end terrorism and rid our civilization of the damaging effects of hatred and intolerance, ultimately achieving a brighter future for all.

Laura and I wish Muslims around the world a joyous Eid, and peace, health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Holiday Reception for the Special Olympics
December 13, 2001

The President. Good evening. Good evening, everyone. Laura and I are so pleased to welcome you to the White House as we pay tribute to a great organization and the really good people behind it.

In a moment, we will hear from Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who has made the Special Olympics her life's work. If you ever had any doubt about how much good that one person can bring into the world, look no farther than this kind and gracious lady. And she married pretty well, too. [*Laughter*] Sure glad you're here, Sargent. And they've done a good job of raising their family. We are so pleased to welcome the—I hate to say the word “children”—

the offspring of Sargent and Eunice Shriver. Obviously, you've done a good job of instilling the sense of public service in your children, and they're compassionate people. I particularly want to thank Tim for being the president of Special Olympics.

With us as well is Eunice's little brother—well, younger brother—[*laughter*]—a man I have grown to admire as a fine United States Senator. And Orrin Hatch, another fine Senator, is here, as well. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate my Commerce Secretary, Donny Evans, for being here, and I want to thank the Surgeon General, David Satcher, for coming, as well.